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CA 0 53292 A1  
DEC 1993

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☆ BLOT/ Q34 Q36 94-057803/08 ☆ CA 2083292-A  
Holder for string of lights esp. Christmas lights - has longitudinally  
extending rows of cylindrical recesses between grooves of elongated  
foam plastic body for receiving bulbs in press-fit manner

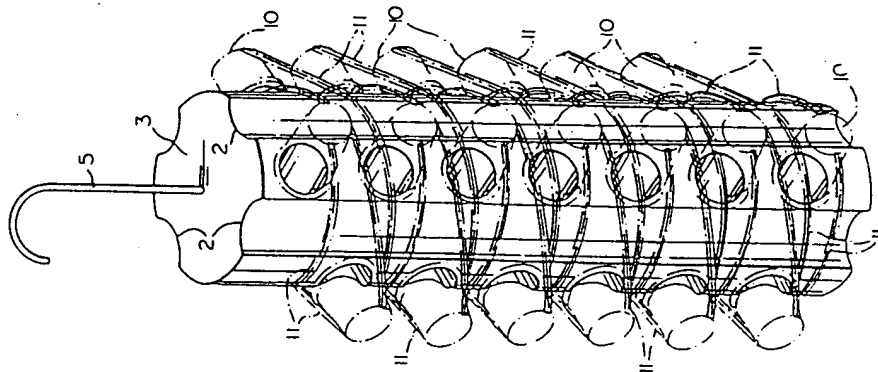
BLOTT T A 92.06.02 92CA-2083292

X26 (93.12.03) B65D 85/42, B65H 75/18

The holder includes an elongated foam plastic body with parallel,  
spaced-apart longitudinally extending grooves facilitating manual  
handling of the holder. Longitudinally extending rows of cylindrical  
recesses are provided between the grooves for receiving the bulbs of  
a string of lights. The recesses are of a diameter so that there is a  
friction fit between the bulbs and the recesses.

The recesses (8) in one row are staggered with respect to the  
recesses in each adjacent row so that a line drawn through the  
centres of the recesses, starting from the top and proceeding to the  
highest recesses in an adjacent row, defining a helix extending from  
the top to the bottom of the body.

ADVANTAGE - Holder has simple construction, and is easy to  
mass produce and use. (11pp Dwg.No.6/6)  
N94-045565



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Consumer and  
Corporate Affairs Canada  
Patent Office

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(51) INTL.CL. <sup>5</sup> B65D-085/42; B65H-075/18

(19) (CA) APPLICATION FOR CANADIAN PATENT (12)

(54) Holder for a String of Lights

(72) Blott, Timothy A. - ;

(73) Same as inventor

(57) 8 Claims

Notice: This application is as filed and may therefore contain an incomplete specification.

Canada

CPA 304 (10-92) 11-2000-01-001

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2083292

In general, holders for Christmas lights and other strings of lights are formed of cardboard or plastic, and are either somewhat flimsy or unnecessarily complicated. The holder described herein is relatively simple, easy to mass produce and use, and includes an elongated foam plastic body with parallel, spaced apart longitudinally extending grooves facilitating manual handling of the holder; and longitudinally extending rows of cylindrical recesses between the grooves for receiving the bulbs of a string of lights, the recesses having diameters such that there is a friction fit between the bulbs and the recesses.

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This invention relates to a holder for carrying a string of lights and in particular to a Christmas light holder.

Christmas light carriers or organizers are by no means new. Examples of such devices are described, for example in United States Patents Nos. 2,872,032, issued to R. West on February 3, 1959; 2,946,498, issued to M. Williamson on July 26, 1960; 2,984,347, issued to D. Kalinchuk on May 16, 1961; 3,162,308, issued to C. Whiteford on December 22, 1964; 3,462,020, issued to C.J. Hall on August 19, 1969; 3,547,256, issued to H. Bolding on December 15, 1970; 3,878,941, issued to G. Kelner on March 22, 1975; 4,215,779, issued to L. Vajtay on August 5, 1980; 4,228,896, issued to J. S. Wu on October 21, 1980; 4,917,323, issued to D. Wing on April 17, 1990; 4,971,200, issued to C.H. Huang et al, on November 20, 1990; 5,033,619, issued to C. Garvis on July 23, 1991 and 5,064,067 issued to J.D. McAllister et al on November 12, 1991.

In general, existing devices of the type described above are either somewhat flimsy or complicated, requiring expensive molds for their production. Ideally, a light holder of the type in question should be simple, inexpensive, durable and easy to use.

An object of the present invention is to meet the above stated requirements by providing a relatively simple holder for a string of lights which is easy to mass produce and use, and which can be made using inexpensive materials.

} Another object of the invention is to provide a holder for a string of lights which facilitates the relatively compact storage of the string of lights, i.e. a holder which forms a compact assembly with the string of lights.

5 Accordingly, the present invention relates to a holder for a string of lights comprising elongated, cylindrical, solid body means; and a plurality of recesses in said body means, each recess adapted to receive a simple bulb of a string of lights, whereby the string of lights can be  
10 wound around the body means with the bulbs inserted into and protected by the body means.

The invention is described hereinafter in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the invention, and  
15 wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a holder for a string of lights in accordance with the present invention;  
Figure 2 is a side view of the holder of Fig. 1;  
Figure 3 is a top view of the holder of Fig. 1;  
20 Figure 4 is a bottom view of the holder of Fig. 1;  
Figure 5 is a side view of a hook used in the holder of Fig. 1; and

Figure 6 is a schematic, perspective view of the holder of Figs. 1 to 4 in use.

25 Referring to Figs. 1 to 4, a holder in accordance with the present invention includes an elongated, generally

cylindrical body 1, which is formed of a foam plastic such as polyurethane. Parallel, spaced apart, longitudinally extending grooves 2 are provided in the side of the body for facilitating manual gripping or handling of the holder. The  
5 grooves 2 are spaced equidistant apart and extend between the planar top and bottom ends 3 and 4, respectively of the body 1.

An inverted J-shaped hook 5 extends upwardly from the center of the top 3 of the body 1 for hanging the holder  
10 on a rod or other support, and facilitating carrying of the holder. A disc 6 (Fig. 5) in the body, retains the hook 5 in the body. For such purpose, the hook 5 passes through the disc 6, and the bottom end 7 of the hook is crimped.

Four longitudinally extending rows of cylindrical  
15 recesses 8 are provided in the side of the body 1 between the grooves 2. The rows are spaced equidistant apart at right angles to each other when viewed from above or below, and the recesses 8 are spaced equidistant apart along the length of the body 1. The recesses 8 in one row are staggered with  
20 respect to the recesses in each adjacent row so that a line drawn through the centers of the recesses, starting from the top and proceeding to the highest recesses in an adjacent row, defining a helix extending from the top to the bottom of the body 1.

25 In use (Fig. 6), a string of lights is wound onto the body 1, the bulb (not shown) of a single light 10 being

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inserted into each of the recesses 8, and the wire 11 defining roughly helical lines around the body. In order to make the diameter of the body 1 as small as possible, the smallest possible vertical spacing is provided between the recesses 8 in one row and those in an adjacent row in the direction of winding the wire 11. As seen in Fig. 2, this is achieved by approximately aligning the longitudinal axis of one recess 8 with a point slightly beneath the upper edge of the next, adjacent recess in the direction of winding of the wire 11. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 5, the recesses extend to the longitudinal center of the body 1. Thus, when the lights are inserted into the recesses 8, there is a certain amount of overlap between their inner ends.



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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN  
EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS  
FOLLOWS:

1. A holder for a string of lights comprising elongated, cylindrical, solid body means; and a plurality of recesses in said body means, each recess adapted to receive a simple bulb of a string of lights, whereby the string of lights can be wound around the body means with the bulbs inserted into and protected by the body means.

2. A holder according to claim 1, wherein said recesses are arranged in parallel, longitudinally extending rows, the recesses in each row being staggered with respect to the recesses in any adjacent row, whereby a line drawn around the body means through the centers of adjacent holes defines a helix from the top to the bottom of the body means.

3. A holder according to claim 2, wherein the rows of recesses are spaced equidistant apart, and the longitudinal axis of one recess is aligned with a point slightly beneath the upper edge of an adjacent recess therebelow.

4. A holder according to claim 3, wherein said recesses extend to the center of said body means, whereby there is some overlap between the inner ends of bulbs inserted into said recesses.

5. A holder according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, including grooves extending longitudinally of said body means between said rows of recesses to facilitate manually gripping of the spool.

6. A holder according to claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein the diameter of said recesses is approximately the same as the widest diameter of the bulbs, whereby there is friction gripping of the bulbs by the sides of said recesses.

7. A holder according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said body means is formed of foam plastic; and the diameter of said recesses is such as to cause friction gripping of the bulbs by the sides of said recesses.

8. A holder according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, including hook means on one end of said body means for suspending the body means from a support.

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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN  
EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS  
FOLLOWS:

1. A holder for a string of lights comprising elongated, cylindrical, solid body means; and a plurality of recesses in said body means, each recess adapted to receive a simple bulb of a string of lights, whereby the string of lights can be wound around the body means with the bulbs inserted into and protected by the body means.
2. A holder according to claim 1, wherein said recesses are arranged in parallel, longitudinally extending rows, the recesses in each row being staggered with respect to the recesses in any adjacent row, whereby a line drawn around the body means through the centers of adjacent holes defines a helix from the top to the bottom of the body means.
3. A holder according to claim 2, wherein the rows of recesses are spaced equidistant apart, and the longitudinal axis of one recess is aligned with a point slightly beneath the upper edge of an adjacent recess therebelow.
4. A holder according to claim 3, wherein said recesses extend to the center of said body means, whereby there is some overlap between the inner ends of bulbs inserted into said recesses.
5. A holder according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, including grooves extending longitudinally of said body means between said rows of recesses to facilitate manually gripping of the spool.

6. A holder according to claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein the diameter of said recesses is approximately the same as the widest diameter of the bulbs, whereby there is friction gripping of the bulbs by the sides of said recesses.

7. A holder according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said body means is formed of foam plastic; and the diameter of said recesses is such as to cause friction gripping of the bulbs by the sides of said recesses.

8. A holder according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, including hook means on one end of said body means for suspending the body means from a support.

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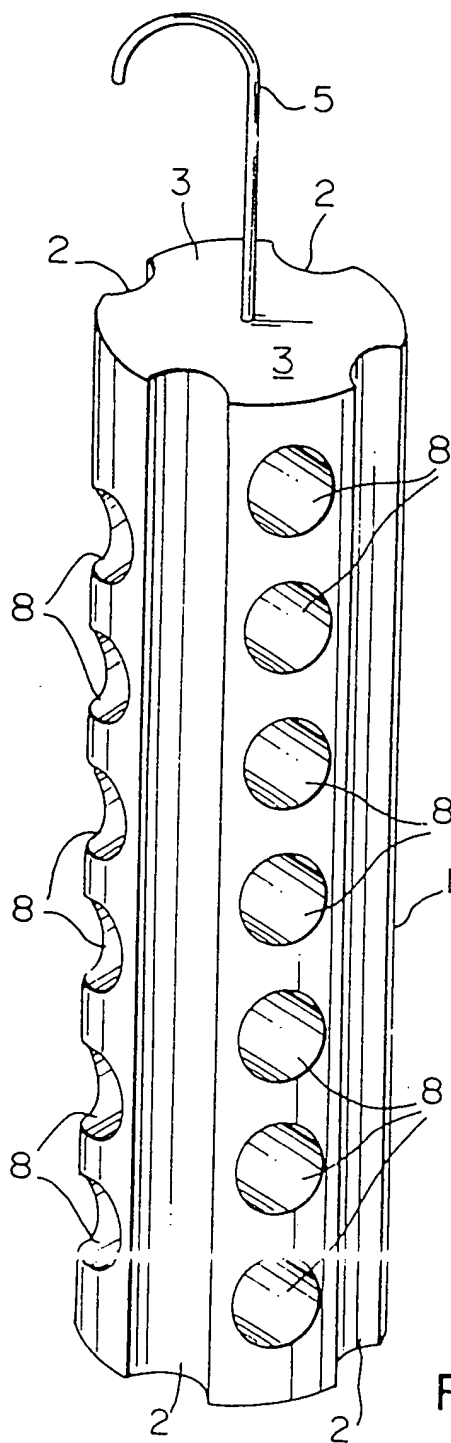


FIG. 1

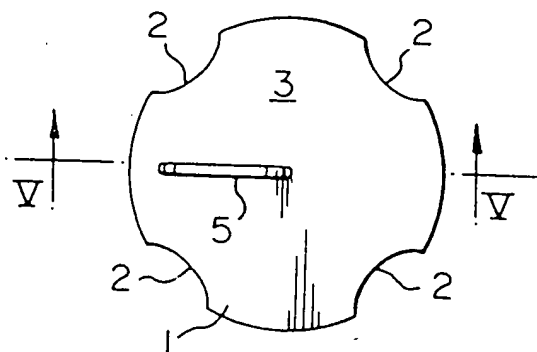


FIG. 3

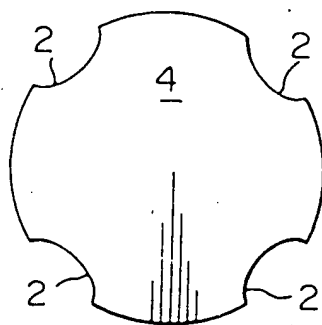


FIG. 4

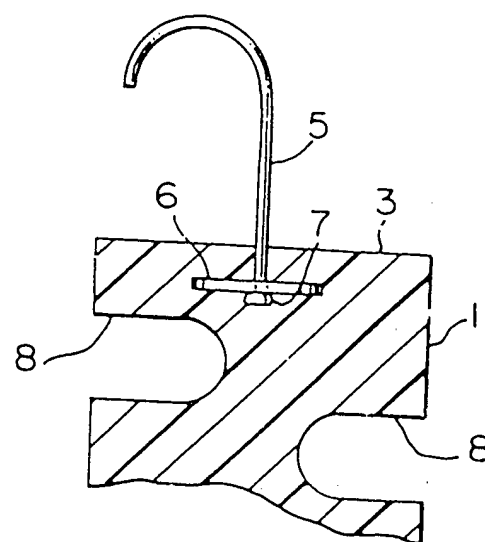


FIG. 5

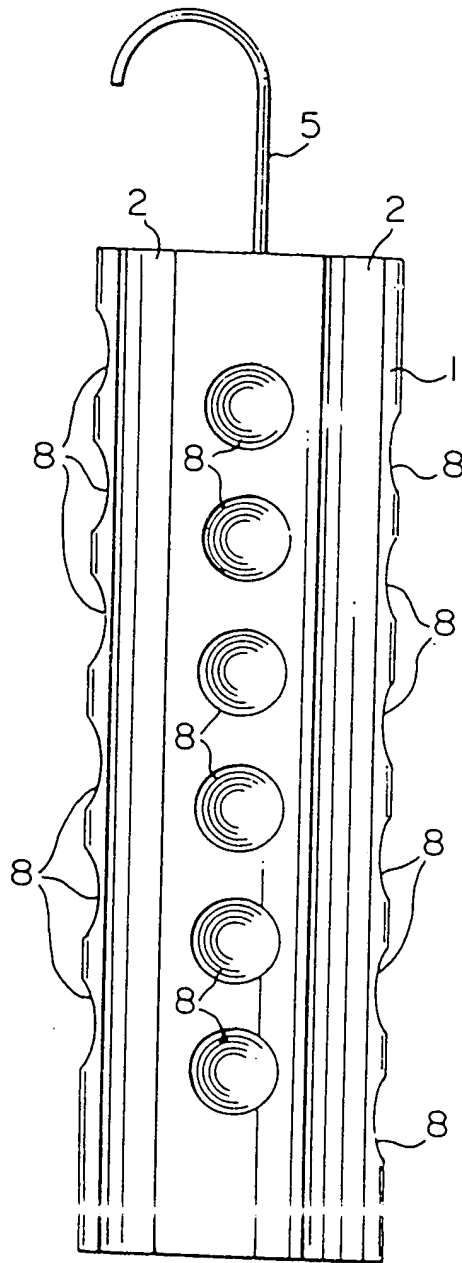


FIG. 2